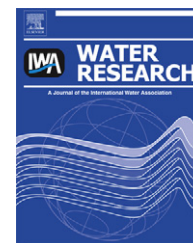


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Editorial

Up-front rejections or which type of paper should I not submit to Water Research

The Editorial Board of Water Research handles more than 3000 papers per year which necessitates in the order of 7500 referee tasks. We aim at an average handling time of 6 months from submission to online publication for accepted papers, for rejected ones much shorter. Water Research aims to handle papers which need minor (or moderate) revision only. Submitted papers that need more work but are not sure to reach the quality level required for Water Research, we reject.

In order to protect referees from unnecessary work (in relation to Water Research), and to allow authors to have a speedy submission to a more appropriate journal, we use up-front rejections.

The Editorial Board may up-front reject papers with:

- Poor English
- Excessive length
- Inadequate references
- Lack of literature background
- Lack of conclusion and discussion
- Commercial content, marketing a product
- References mainly being to the authors' own papers
- Minor chance of being generally useful or cited
- Lack of quantitative information (data, tables, etc.)
- Case studies or local issues, where observations are not generalized
- Insufficient research content (a lack of novelty, deliberate division of results into serial manuscripts)
- Insufficient attention to language and presentation prior to submission

Another major reason for rejection is not being within the scope of Water Research. Water Research is an interdisciplinary journal with an applied edge. This means that papers that go into too many details of one of the supporting disciplines (such as chemistry, toxicology, microbiology etc.) without making a good link with water research in general may be rejected up-front.

Language and presentation we consider very important. Although we recognize that it is essential for students to learn the art of writing papers for publication in scientific journals,

we do not accept that it is the reviewers' or editors' responsibility to complete the process. Any final polishing of manuscripts should be completed prior to submission by the senior researchers and authors. Papers deficient in this regard run a great risk of up-front rejection.

Up-front rejection allows the authors to make a quick submission of a revised version to a more appropriate journal. The downside is that the authors do not get detailed feedback on their work from Water Research, as the Editor's comments may be short. They will hopefully get such feedback when they submit to other journals. Many of the papers we reject are publishable elsewhere, but they do not live up to our high-quality standards.

Our total rate of up-front rejections amounts to nearly 50% of the submitted papers. We do make mistakes, for which we apologize, but we have to balance the interests of both authors and referees, and we cannot ask the reviewers to spend time and effort on articles that are unlikely to be published.

Up-front rejected papers will not be reconsidered for publication. We have a similar policy for papers rejected after refereeing. A rejection after reviewing means that even after substantial revision the paper will not make it into Water Research. Major revision means that depending on a re-review of a substantially improved manuscript, the paper might be acceptable for publication.

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